

# **Mud Creek - Harold Refuse AML Enhancement Project Floyd County**

## **Project Description**

The proposed project (approximately 4.1 acres total) consists of removing an existing coal refuse pile for reprocessing within the community of Harold, in Floyd County. The project area is centrally located in the Harold Quadrangle at 37° 32' 11" latitude and 82° 37' 59" longitude (see the attached map). The site is located immediately west of a CSX rail line and within 225-feet of the Levisa Fork. Previously, this locale was identified as "Site A" of the 17 AG Harold Mines Reclamation Project, which involved the removal of an old mine office and a tipple. Local residents reported that Harold Fuel mined the Upper Elkhorn #3 coal bed extensively in the 1940's. Site reclamation is needed as the existing coal refuse pile is a likely source of degradation of downstream water quality and associated stream habitat, as well as a potential fire hazard. Refuse from the pile also periodically washes into the roadside ditch of "old" Highway 979 and causes the ditch to overtop, posing a threat to motorists.

This project will include excavating an existing coal refuse pile, using an unmaintained existing hard-surfaced roadway that intersects with "Old Harold Road", approximately 0.1 miles south of its intersection with "old" Ky. 979. Once site access and sediment control are established, refuse removal will begin. Any existing re-useable topsoil cover material will be stockpiled within the project area, in tentative locations as shown on the site plan map. Each stockpile will be graded and seeded to establish a quick vegetative cover to protect it until the cover material can be reused for reclamation. Each refuse area will be worked from the top of the pile progressively excavating downward through the refuse. Once removal of the refuse material commences, each cut sequence will create a sump area to the rear of the work area, which will provide temporary sediment control. Concurrently with the sump area creation, a berm will be created along the front of the cuts to prevent refuse material from leaving the work area. The existing access road will be maintained during the refuse removal operation and dust will be controlled by watering methods. Dust will be considered excessive within the project site at the discretion of the job site foreman, and/or personnel from DAML should complaints about such be filed. Engine brakes will be used sparingly to avoid excess noise. If necessary, coarse, dense gravel will be applied to help upgrade the road. Once removed, the coal refuse material will be trucked to a permitted prep plant for processing.

All refuse removal will be conducted between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, unless an emergency warrants the changing of the scheduled work hours. If emergency refuse removal is warranted, Division of Abandoned Mine Lands (DAML) personnel will be notified in advance of such removal. Emergency refuse removal will not occur until DAML gives prior approval unless the emergency constitutes a direct and imminent threat to public health and safety.

As refuse recovery operations are completed the area will be scarified, limed, topsoiled then seeded and mulched according to the revegetation plan. The areas to be revegetated may require lime application to neutralize any acidic or barren spots or to promote vegetative growth. Location and rates of lime application will be determined by DAML. If the original topsoil located at the original groundline proves to not have been contaminated by the refuse material, alternate topsoil material will not be necessary. Trees will be planted by DAML. The species and stocking rate will be determined by DAML personnel.

There are approximately 200 dwellings and/or commercial/institutional buildings within ½ mile of the project site. No blasting is planned for this project; it is not foreseen that any damage or nuisances to area residences, business' or institutions will occur as a result of this project. Dust and noise controls will be adopted to ensure such does not occur. Power utility lines within the project area will be relocated, as necessary, to insure no disruption of power occurs to area residents by accidental power pole damage. An agreement with American Electric Power Company has been reached to do so, if necessary. AEP will be responsible for performance of relocation work to their satisfaction. No other utilities, i.e., gas lines, etc., are known to exist within the project work area. Should any be encountered, the owners will be contacted and arrangements made to relocate, if necessary.

All necessary permits and/or variances will be procured prior to construction. The project will require tree removal. Metal debris or any trash, should it be encountered, within the refuse area will be hauled to an off-site approved landfill. Construction disturbances will be kept to a minimum through the use of a stringently formulated sediment and erosion control program, consisting of hay-bale silt checks and silt fences maintained throughout the life of the project, prompt re-vegetation using agricultural limestone, fertilizer, seed, netting and mulch for the areas disturbed by the project.

The entire project work area has been previously disturbed by any or all of the following: coal mining operations, including mine drainage, timber operations, gas/oil well development, residential development, road construction, and/or high velocity water flows associated with heavy rain events and flooding. These disturbances consist of significant upheaval, mixing, and removal of earthen material from deep excavation, grading, sub-surface drilling, fill material placement, and erosion. There should be no undisturbed earthen material to a depth of several feet at the areas slated for significant project-related construction activities.

This project will include pre- and/or post- project maintenance and repair of existing previously constructed public county roads utilized during the construction of this project, which are administered by the county or local road authority. Maintenance of the road shall include periodic inspection and cleaning of culverts and of ditches, if necessary. Procedures will include the assurance that culverts do not collapse or become clogged. The surface of the road will be maintained by grading, filling and replacement surfacing materials.